

Javits and Donovan in TV Clash Question Each Other's Fitness

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Views on world affairs ran second to a biting give-and-take on personalities in a foreign policy debate yesterday between Senator Jacob K. Javits and James B. Donovan, his Democratic-Liberal challenger.

Mr. Donovan, charging that Mr. Javits tried "to carry water on both shoulders," asserted there was "always a but" in the backing the Senator claimed to give to bipartisan foreign policy.

Senator Javits, noting that Mr. Donovan has pledged down-the-line support of the administration, insisted New Yorkers "don't want a yes man, don't want a rubber stamp, don't want an adviser whom the President can hire any day he wants to."

The candidates debated for an hour on WGBS-TV, firing questions at each other half the time. They were in full agreement only in calling for all possible United States aid to India in that country's border dispute with Communist China.

Mr. Javits, angered by a charge that he "talked out of both sides of his mouth," replied that Mr. Donovan "cannot destroy my integrity just by saying so."

His opponent fired back that Mr. Javits was "seeking to be all things to all men" and that it was a record of voting 74 per cent of the time with the

Democrats that "impugned his integrity."

The Senator demanded that Mr. Donovan "get down to the ABC's of what he believes in" with just two weeks remaining in the campaign. His own views, he said, had been recorded in 2,000 votes in the Congress.

"Almost every vote must have killed him," Mr. Donovan said.

"Near but not near enough," retorted Mr. Javits. "If I've suffered 2,000 deaths in those votes, I'm still a pretty healthy corpse."

Dallas Townsend, who moderated the debate, sought to prevent Mr. Donovan from discussing Mr. Javits' criticism of President Kennedy's handling of events at Oxford, Miss. But the Democratic candidate insisted the criticism had been "captious" and "would do a great deal of harm in Africa and Asia."

Mr. Javits denied this. He insisted he had criticized only the President's failure to "emphasize the moral issues involved." He said his criticism had been directed only to the President's speech to the nation regarding steps being taken to register James Meredith at the University of Mississippi.

The two men, each standing at a lectern, were at opposite ends of the studio. Mr. Townsend sat at a raised desk between them.

Each man made a five-minute opening talk. Mr. Javits said that his fourteen years in Congress, six of them in the Senate, had given him background in foreign policy.

Mr. Donovan, known now for his efforts to gain the release of prisoners in the Soviet Union and Cuba, said his duty with the Office of Strategic Services, including service as chief counsel, had helped to equip him in this area.

He said he felt "almost uniquely" qualified to help effect a settlement in the Middle East by going to the Arab

states and their allies. "With the authority of the United States Senate," he said, "I would seek a peaceful solution. He said there had been "enough back-slapping" since the 1950s.

Mr. Javits asserted that Mr. Donovan did not understand a Senator's role. A Senator, he said, doesn't "make a little trip with a little suitcase to Arab countries to fix it all up."

An angry exchange took place when Mr. Donovan said he was "amazed, genuinely shocked" to hear Mr. Javits say that the Soviet Union's menace was first evidenced after World War II.

"You can't get by with that because I won't let you," the Senator said.

"You can't put words in my mouth." He insisted that, as a founder in 1939 of "Fight for Freedom," he was aware well before the war of the Soviet threat.

Mr. Donovan, decrying the

Berlin wall, said that 10 tanks had been sent into East Berlin when the wall was begun, the Russians "would not have fired a shot." Mr. Javits noted that Mr. Kennedy was President at the time.

Senator Javits, in closing, urged the formation of a "Caribbean-type NATO" to help enforce a quarantine of Cuba backed by the Organization of American States.

The Senator, suffering from a cold, limited his day's activity to the debate.

Later in the day, Mr. Donovan said on the WGBS radio program "Let's Find Out" that the timing of the Democratic campaign would produce a "final surge" to victory.

On the radio program, he insisted he had not opposed President Kennedy's medical care or school aid programs. But said he felt medical care for the aged should be provided under Social Security

only if private insurance failed.

In a talk at the Carter Community African Methodist Episcopal Church in Jamaica, Queens, Mr. Donovan argued that President Kennedy "spoke out for the conscience of the whole United States" in the steps he took to end segregation at the University of Mississippi.